



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0253 – Room 2610-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0253

March 2005

**NOTICE TO THE TRADE
USDA MEAT SUPPLIERS
FOOD SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING**

The Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, Food and Nutrition Service, and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration, is providing food security awareness training for individuals who play an important role in ensuring the safety and security of our nation's food supply. This training is free of charge and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. As you know, each contractor and subcontractor who will participate in AMS meat and fish purchase programs in the upcoming school year must have a Food Security Plan that will be subject to full scale operational audits. In this regard, we encourage each of our contractors and subcontractors to take full advantage of this training. Information about the training sessions including locations and reservation forms are attached.

If further information concerning the training is needed, please feel free to contact the person listed in the attachment or Duane Williams, Contracting Officer, on (202) 720-2650.

/s/ William Sessions (3/21/05)
William T. Sessions
Associate Deputy Administrator
Livestock and Seed Program

Attachments

Announcing Food Security Training Program Opportunities

PROTECTING THE FOOD SUPPLY FROM INTENTIONAL ADULTERATION: AN INTRODUCTORY TRAINING SESSION TO RAISE AWARENESS

To help reduce the risk of an attack on the food supply, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have joined forces to provide a food security awareness training program.

The training targets individuals who play an important role in defending our nation's food from attack: federal, state, local, and tribal food-industry regulators, school food authorities, and nutrition assistance program operators and administrators. Representatives from the food industry and individuals essential in responding to a food emergency due to an intentional attack—such as law enforcement, public health, and homeland security officials—are also encouraged to participate.

The program, which was developed jointly by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, Food and Nutrition Service, and Agricultural Marketing Service and HHS' Food and Drug Administration, is available to any interested individuals free of charge in three formats: through a Food and Drug Administration website; at face-to-face training courses offered across the country; and on a CD-ROM for limited distribution.

Contact Hour Certificates will be available to any participant, regardless of the course format. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available through the FDA website for FDA, State, Local and Tribal regulators who successfully complete the course. The details of the three formats are discussed below.

On-Line Course

The on-line course is being hosted by FDA at the following website:

<http://www.fda.gov/ora/training/orau/FoodSecurity/default.htm>. It is available worldwide at that site free of charge to anyone interested in learning more about food security. Please contact Sebastian Cianci at (301) 436-2291 or Sebastian.Cianci@cfsan.fda.gov for more information.

Face-to-Face Training

Face-to-face food security awareness training is being offered across the country. This session will provide general information about the roles of various agencies in protecting the food supply from intentional contamination, vulnerability awareness, and cooperation of government personnel and other involved parties at the federal, state and local level. The course lasts approximately six hours (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) and is free of charge. Space will be limited and registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please contact Anne Roberts via email (roberta@saic.com) or telephone (202-488-6609) for further details regarding the face-to-face training. The currently scheduled cities and dates are as follows (registration deadline in parentheses):

Atlanta, GA – March 22nd, 2005 (March 11th, 2005)

Seattle, WA – April 19th, 2005 (April 8th, 2005)

Alameda, CA – April 21st, 2005 (April 8th, 2005)

Philadelphia, PA – May 17th, 2005 (May 6th, 2005)

Boston, MA – May 19th, 2005 (May 6th, 2005)

Kansas City, MO – June 7th, 2005 (May 27th, 2005)

Boulder, CO – June 9th, 2005 (May 27th, 2005)

Chicago, IL – July 12th, 2005 (July 1st 2005)
Minneapolis, MN – July 14th, 2005 (July 1st, 2005)
Los Angeles, CA – August 4th, 2005 (July 22nd, 2005)
Miami, FL – September 13th (September 2nd, 2005)
Washington, DC – September 20th, 2005 (September 9th, 2005)

CD-ROM Course

A CD-ROM version of the course will also be available for limited distribution. Individuals with internet access are encouraged to take the course on-line. CD-ROMs will be distributed to FSIS district and regional offices.

For further details, updates, and registration information on these training opportunities, please visit any one of the agencies' websites: for USDA, www.fsis.usda.gov, www.ams.usda.gov, or www.fns.usda.gov; for FDA, www.cfsan.fda.gov, and search for "food security awareness".

AGENCY-SPECIFIC FOOD SECURITY TRAINING

In conjunction with the Food Security Awareness Training Program, some of the individual agencies are offering food security training tailored to their workforce.

FSIS

FSIS is providing training, both at the face-to-face training and on the CD-ROM, on FSIS' Homeland Security Threat Condition Response Directives (Series 5420), which establish how threat conditions will be communicated throughout FSIS and provide instructions for program areas on how to respond. The intended audience for this session is district and regional FSIS personnel. Others are welcome to participate if interested. The face-to-face training on FSIS' directives will be offered immediately following the Food Security Awareness training. The CD-ROM will include both the food security awareness training and the FSIS directives training. Those CDs will be distributed to FSIS district and regional offices.

FNS

FNS will present an agency-specific module, to complement the basic food security awareness training entitled *The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs*. This FNS training will be presented immediately following the awareness training and will focus on the unique responsibilities in reducing the risk of intentional contamination within the USDA nutrition assistance programs. The intended audience for this session is those who work in or with nutrition assistance programs. Others are welcome to participate if interested.

AMS

AMS is also developing an agency-specific module to be presented following the food security awareness training at some of the locations.

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

THE ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS

265 Peachtree Center Avenue

Atlanta, GA 30303

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, March 11, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

SEATTLE, WA

Location To Be Determined

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, April 8, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

ALAMEDA, CA

Location To Be Determined

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, April 8, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

PHILADELPHIA, PA
Location To Be Determined
Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, May 6, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

BOSTON, MA

Location To Be Determined

Thursday, May 19, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, May 6, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

KANSAS CITY, MO
Location To Be Determined
Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, May 27, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

BOULDER, CO

Location To Be Determined

Thursday June 9, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, May 27, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

CHICAGO, IL
Location To Be Determined
Tuesday, July 12, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, July 1, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Location To Be Determined
Thursday, July 14, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, July 1, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

LOS ANGELES, CA
Location To Be Determined
Thursday, August 4, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, July 22, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

MIAMI, FL

Location To Be Determined

Tuesday September 13, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, September 2, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____

Food Security Training

Meeting Registration Form

WASHINGTON, DC

Location To Be Determined

Tuesday September 20, 2005

Please complete form below and return to Sue Martindale via email at martindales@saic.com or fax at (301) 428-0145 by Friday, September 9, 2005. Please register early as space is limited.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please note that this information will be included in a participants list for all attendees.

Are you planning to attend an afternoon session? If so, which one?

FSIS Homeland Security Directives – Series 5420 _____

The Relevance of Food Biosecurity to Food and Nutrition Service Programs _____